(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Effective from Kharif 2006-07, the Government has already lowered the interest rates on crop loans to 7% with an upper limit of Rs. 3 lakhs on the principal amount. It has been decided to continue this policy for the year 2007-08 also. Besides, Government is already subsidizing other major inputs like Fertilizers and Seeds.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Revival of closed unit of FCI at Talcher

†1190. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action is being taken to revive the closed unit of Fertilizer Corporation of India (FCI) located at Talcher in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the view point of Government in this regard;

(d) whether Government have any details about the incident of arson that took place in the unit last year; and

(e) the details of the left out materials in that unit after this arson?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Pursuant to the decision taken by the Government on 12.4.2007, in-principle, to examine the feasibility of reviving the units of Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCIL) subject to the confirmed availability of gas, the company has initiated the process of obtaining the Techno-Economic Feasibility Report (TEFR) for revival of individual units. A well-run fertilizer Pubic Sector Undertaking under the administrative control of the Department of Fertilizers, namely, Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. (RCF) has shown interest in the revival of Talcher Unit of FCIL. Issues pertaining to availability/connectivity of gas, investment policy and mobilization of financial resources, for revival process, are under examination.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

(d) and (e) No arson took place in the Talcher Unit last year. There was an incident of accidential fire in the factory premises on 6.4.2007 which originated from near the boundary wall of the factory and quickly spread due to wild bush growth and strong winds. The fire was brought under control within few hours with the assistance of local administration and nearby public undertakings. There was no loss of plant and machinery in the unit due to the fire incident. Only the wooden coolling tower structures, which were in old and in a collapsed condition, were affected. The losses to the company are estimated to be less than Rs. 1 lakh due to the above accident.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.